

In examining critically the genera of *Neottideæ*, I have been surprised to find that this *Decaisnia* is identical with *Prescottia*; a circumstance easily overlooked, since the species is somewhat different in habit from any of the *Prescottias* hitherto published, and is moreover so represented in the figure that accompanies M. Brongniart's memoirs as not to call to mind the peculiar cucullate fleshy lip and revolute floral envelopes of *Prescottia*. I find, however, that both these characters really exist in *Decaisnia*.

M. Brongniart relies upon the adhesion of the lateral sepals and labellum into a pouch, two pollen masses, and a pair of auricles to the anther-bed, as characteristic features of *Decaisnia*; but the first is equally the attribute of all *Prescottias*, and the others are of little moment. I am not able to ascertain whether the granular pollen masses are simple or two-lobed, although I possess an excellent specimen of *D. densiflora*, through the liberality of M. Ad. Brongniart, so very difficult is the examination of the minute fructification of these plants: but even if the pollen be as is represented in the figure in Duperrey's Voyage, it would not constitute, *per se*, a generic difference from *Prescottia*; and with regard to the auricles of the anther-bed, they occur in *P. plantaginea* itself, and in *P. stachyodes* form a still more striking feature in that part.

Although the name *Decaisnia* must therefore be abolished, I do not think it desirable to restore it to those Indian *Neottideæ*, originally so called by me, and afterwards, at the request of M. Brongniart, altered to *Cnemidia*, for this would be to increase the confusion of names. It will, I think, be better that some new genus should be taken to commemorate the distinguished merits of M. Decaisne.

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VIII.—On a new British Species of Colymbetes. By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, Esq., M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S., &c.

THE water Coleoptera of South Britain have now been so carefully studied, that it is far from probable that any new species should yet remain to be discovered amongst the larger forms; it is therefore with the greater satisfaction that I now introduce to the entomological readers of the Annals of Natural History a new species of *Colymbetes*, discovered by the Rev. J. L. Brown in Horning marshes, Norfolk, in the month of March, 1839, and again found in the same place in March 1840. This insect appears referable to the section *Agabus* of Erichson, in which the labial palpi have the third joint a very little shorter than the second, the claws being equal and

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moveable, and the three basal joints of the anterior tarsi in the males being dilated with small acetabuli; and to the fourth division of it, where the four basal joints of the posterior tarsi are ciliated beneath in the males.

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*Syllenh.*  
COLYMBETES (AGABUS, §. 4.) *rectus*, (Bab.). Lineari-oblongus, subconvexus, fusco-niger, subtilissime longitudinaliter strigosus, antennis pedibusque ferrugineis, elytris apice punctato et strigis tribus irregularibus punctorum impressis.  
(Long. corp.  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; lat.  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lin.)

Oval oblong, with the sides nearly parallel and straight, slightly broader behind the middle of the elytra, rather convex, fuscous black above and beneath, head nearly smooth, with two large deep punctures in front and two small deep foveæ before and rather above the eyes, which have a narrow rugose line along their upper margin, crown with two round red spots. Thorax covered with minute anastomosing longitudinal striæ, which are much stronger near to the lateral margins, a shallow depression next to each of the hinder angles, from each of which an irregular line of punctures extends along the hinder margin half-way to the scutellum. There is also a line of irregular impressions along the whole of the anterior margin, and a faint trace of a dorsal channel. Scutellum smooth. Elytra having their sides in continuity with the thorax, covered throughout with minute longitudinal anastomosing striæ, and having three irregular rows of punctures upon each, with distant scattered dots between them, which become more numerous towards the apex; also an irregular row of numerous punctures on the outer margin. Mouth, antennæ, and palpi ferruginous; the labial palpi with the second joint rather longer than the third. Legs ferruginous, with the thighs darker; tarsi of the male with the three basal joints of the anterior dilated, and the four of the posterior ciliated beneath; claws of equal length upon each tarsus, but those of the posterior very minute.

Inhabits Horning marshes, Norfolk, and was found by the Rev. J. L. Brown in March, 1839 and 1840.

Closely resembling *C. branchiatus* (Bab.) in form, but belonging to a different subdivision of the section, and in that the colour is blueish black, the upper surface almost smooth, the legs, antennæ, and palpi are much darker, and there is also a faint trace of a transparent line upon each of the elytra.

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